

JUN 6 2002

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
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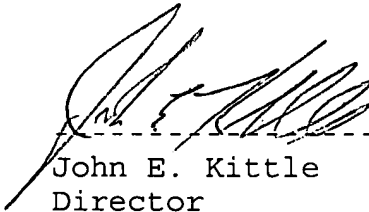
In re Application of :
John M. Barker :
Serial No.: 09/837,539 : DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: April 18, 2001 :
For: Medical Device with Shield :
Having A Retractable Needle :

This is in response to applicants' petition filed April 22, 2002, to make the above-identified application special under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.102(c), based on the merits as it relates HIV/AIDS.

Applicant has satisfied the provisions set forth in M.P.E.P. 708.02, X. Therefore the petition is GRANTED.

The application will be forwarded to the examiner for action on the merits commensurate with this decision.

Should there be any questions with regard to this letter please contact John E. Kittle by letter addressed to the Director, Technology Center 3700/2900, Washington, DC 20231, or by telephone at (703) 308-0873 or by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-3139.



John E. Kittle
Director
Technology Center 3700/2900